07/19/1999
Richard W. Heffman
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Mentpelier, Verment
05601-0652

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William Hubbard
Dockets Management Branch (HFA 305)
Food & Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Mr. Hubbard;

This letter is in regard to Decket No. 98N-1038, "Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food." I am writing this letter due to my deep concern about the possibility of weakening or eliminating the strict labeling requirements for irradiated food. Any foods and/or any foods containing ingredients that have been irradiated should be clearly labeled with a written statement on the display panel indicating such treatment. This statement should be clear and concise and must be situated in close preximity to the name of the treated food and accompanied by the radura, "The international symbol of irradiated food." If the food is sold in bulk, this information should be prominently displayed on a poster in plain view and next to where the product is displayed for sale. The terms "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation" should be retained because they best describe the irradiation process. The radura symbol without written disclosure is clearly inadequate.

Consumers have a right to knew how their food has been processed. Please make sure that radiation labeling requirements are strengthened, not weakened.

Thankyou for your attention.

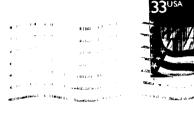
Sincerely,

Richard W. Heffman

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Richard W. Hoffman P.O. Box 652 Montpelier, VT 05601-0652





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Food and Drug Administration
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